Reservation for Physically Handicapped Persons in Central Government Services

*64. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the physically handicapped job seekers have been allowed any reservation in Central Government services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the objects of the 'Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995' are being defeated by non-implementation of the same; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure justice for the physically handicapped job seekers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides that every appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than three per cent for persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision; (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability. Such appointments are monitored by the Department of Personnel and Training and the Department of Public Enterprises in the Central Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings respectively.

As per information received from the Department of Personnel and Training and Department of Public Enterprises, the provisions contained in the Act are being implemented by the Central Government Establishments and PSUs as a continuing process. Apart from the above legislative provision, the following steps have been taken by the Government to promote employment of persons with disabilities:—

(i) Special Recruitment Drives for persons with disabilities from time to time;

(ii) Identification of more posts suitable for persons with disabilities;

(iii) Prompt reporting of vacancies to Staff Selection Commission/Union Public Service Commission/ Central Employment Exchange etc. by Central Government Ministries/Departments;

(iv) A Conference of Public Sector Undertakings and concerned Ministries was held on 15.11.2000 in which the progress of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was reviewed and the Public Sector Undertakings have been advised to launch vigorous drive to identify vacancies and recruit persons with disabilities against them; and

(v) Provision of financial assistance to State Governments for setting up of Special Employment Exchanges/upgradation of Special Cells to Special Employment Exchanges under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped.

Strike by Cable TV Operators

*65. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cable TV operators recently went on a three day strike against what they called lopsided amendments to and twists given in operation of the Cable T.V. Act;

(b) if so, what were the precise objections regarding the amendments or operation of the Cable TV Act pointed out by them; and

(c) what steps were taken to streamline the operation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cable operators in and around Delhi had gone on a strike on 26th September, 2000 on the issue, *inter-alia*, of liability of adherence to the Programme and Advertising Codes by them, for all the channels being transmitted by them. It was clarified to them that their primary responsibility for compliance with the Broadcast Code is with regard to their own channels. They were also informed that the satellite channels will be primarily responsible for adherence to the Programme and Advertising Code with regard to their channels, and, in case of violations of the Codes by them, the Ministry will notify such channels so that their retransmission can be stopped by the cable operators.